

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel Claims 2, 10, 11, 19 and 20 without prejudice, amend Claims 1, 3-9 and 12-18 as follows, and add Claims 21-25:

1. (Currently amended) A contact nozzle for electric arc welding with continuous welding wire flowed through by welding current, which nozzle can be connected to a welding torch and comprises

an electrically conductive contact tube with a longitudinal through-hole ~~intended~~ for passage of the welding wire during welding from an inlet end to an outlet end in said longitudinal hole, and ~~also comprises~~ a spring element ~~intended~~ arranged to apply a force to the welding wire in a direction essentially transverse to the feed direction of the wire ~~so as~~ to press the welding wire against the an inside of the contact tube, wherein

the longitudinal hole has a first portion of length with a certain cross-sectional area at the inlet end and a second portion of length with a smaller cross-sectional area than the first, ~~and in that~~ the spring element has been mounted from the inlet end in the first portion of length of the longitudinal hole, and

additionally comprising means for preventing electric contact between the wire and said outlet end of said longitudinal through-hole.

2. Canceled.

3. (Currently amended) The contact nozzle according to Claim 1 ~~comprising~~ wherein said means comprise an electrically insulating or high-resistance sleeve for preventing or reducing welding current transfer at said outlet end ~~in a certain area~~.

4. (Currently amended) The contact nozzle according to Claim 1 ~~with~~ wherein said means comprise insulating or high-resistance coating for preventing or reducing welding current transfer at said outlet end ~~in a certain area~~.

5. (Currently amended) The contact nozzle according to Claim 3 ~~with~~ wherein said ~~a sleeve or coating is~~ made of harder material than the contact tube for increased wear-resistance.

6. (Currently amended) A spring element for being mounted in a contact nozzle according to Claim 1, which comprises a resilient contact tongue ~~intended~~ arranged to, during use, apply ~~a~~ the force to ~~a~~ the passing welding wire essentially transversely to the feed direction of the wire and further comprising a distance element which, after mounting in the contact tube, gives the contact tongue its position in relation to the walls of the longitudinal hole.

7. (Currently amended) The spring element according to Claim 6 also comprising a second distance element which, after mounting in the contact tube, gives the contact tongue its position in relation to the transition between the first and second portion of length of the longitudinal hole.

8. (Currently amended) The spring element according to Claim 6 ~~where~~ wherein the contact tongue has been ~~designed~~ structured in a bowl-shaped manner essentially according to the diameter of the welding wire.

9. (Previously presented) A welding torch, which comprises the contact nozzle according to Claim 1.

10. Canceled.

11. Canceled.

12. (Currently amended) The contact nozzle according to Claim 4 ~~with a~~ wherein said sleeve ~~or coating~~ is made of harder material than the contact tube for increased wear-resistance.

13. (Currently amended) A spring element for being mounted in a contact nozzle according to Claim 2 21, which comprises a resilient contact tongue ~~intended~~ arranged to, during use, apply ~~a~~ the force to ~~a~~ the passing welding wire essentially transversely to the feed direction of the wire and further comprising a distance element which, after mounting in the contact tube, gives the contact tongue its position in relation to the walls of the longitudinal hole.

14. (Currently amended) A spring element for being mounted in a contact nozzle according to Claim 3, which comprises a resilient contact tongue ~~intended~~ arranged to, during use, apply ~~a~~ the force to ~~a~~ the passing welding wire essentially transversely to the feed direction of the wire and further comprising a distance element which, after mounting in the contact tube, gives the contact tongue its position in relation to the walls of the longitudinal hole.

(^a ~~a~~)
15. (Currently amended) A spring element for being mounted in a contact nozzle according to Claim 4, which comprises a resilient contact tongue ~~intended~~ arranged to, during use, apply ~~a~~ the force to ~~a~~ the passing welding wire essentially transversely to the feed direction of the wire and further comprising a distance element which, after mounting in the contact tube, gives the contact tongue its position in relation to the walls of the longitudinal hole.

16. (Currently amended) A spring element for being mounted in a contact nozzle according to Claim 5, which comprises a resilient contact tongue ~~intended~~ arranged to, during use, apply ~~a~~ the force to ~~a~~ the passing welding wire essentially transversely to the feed direction of the wire and further comprising a distance element which after mounting in the contact tube gives the contact tongue its position in relation to the walls of the longitudinal hole.

17. (Currently amended) The spring element according to Claim 7 ~~where~~ wherein the contact tongue has been ~~designed~~ structured in a bowl-shaped manner essentially according to ~~the~~ diameter of the welding wire.

18. (Currently amended) A welding torch, which comprises the contact nozzle according to Claim 2 21.

19. Canceled.

20. Canceled.

21. (New) A contact nozzle for electric arc welding with continuous welding wire flowed through by welding current, which nozzle can be connected to a welding torch and comprises

an electrically conductive contact tube with a longitudinal through-hole for passage of the welding wire during welding from an inlet end to an outlet end in said longitudinal hole, and

a spring element arranged to apply a force to the welding wire in a direction essentially transverse to feed direction of the wire to press the welding wire against an inside of the contact tube, wherein

the longitudinal hole has a first portion of length with a certain cross-sectional area at the inlet end and a second portion of length with a smaller cross-sectional area than the first,

the spring element has been mounted from the inlet end in the first portion of length of the longitudinal hole, and

an electrically-insulating or high-resistance sleeve or coating extends to said outlet end of said longitudinal hole, for preventing or reducing welding current transfer at said outlet end.

22. (New) The contact nozzle of Claim 21, wherein said sleeve or coating is made of harder material than the contact tube for increased wear-resistance.

23. (New) The spring element according to Claim 13, wherein the contact tongue has been structured in a bowl-shaped manner essentially according to diameter of the welding wire.

24. (New) The spring element according to Claim 13, also comprising a second distance element which, after mounting in the contact tube, gives the contact tongue its position in relation to the transition between the first and second portion of length of the longitudinal hole.

25. (New) The spring element according to Claim 24, wherein the contact tongue has been structured in a bowl-shaped manner essentially according to diameter of the welding wire.